

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Figure 5 and replaces the originally filed Figure 5.

Attachment: Replacement sheet containing Figure 5

REMARKS

The statement by the Examiner that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended. Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

The specification stands objected to based on informalities. The objection is respectfully traversed. The specification has been amended to cure the informalities noted in the Office Action. In addition, paragraphs [0005], [0017], [0019], [0021], [0023], [0024], [0026], [0030] and [0032] have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments to the specification. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

The drawings stand objected to because "S5" and "S7" are each used twice in Figure 5. Applicant has attached an amended version of Figure 5. Amended Figure 5 addresses the concerns raised in the Office Action. The amendment is supported by paragraph [0035] of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments to the specification. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 stands objected to based on informalities. Claim 2 has been amended to cure the informalities noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn and claim 2 allowed.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Initially, Applicant respectfully notes that claims 2 and 3 as originally drafted indicated that the first switching signal is associated with first and second conditions while the second switching signal is associated with its own first and second conditions. To avoid confusion and to further the prosecution of the application, however, claim 2 has been amended to address the concerns raised in the Office Action. Specifically, Applicant has clarified that the first switching signal is associated with the first and second conditions while the second switching signal is associated with third and fourth conditions. In addition, Applicant has amended claim 2 in a manner suggested by the Examiner to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over alleged admitted prior art in view of Saitou, U.S. Patent no. 5,696,979. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites “a voltage detecting circuit for outputting a reset signal for resetting the CPU when the supply voltage is at or below a prescribed voltage detection value” and “a control circuit for decreasing the supply voltage to a prescribed power save voltage level when a power saving mode is set.” According to claim 1, the “control circuit decreases the supply voltage to be the prescribed power save voltage level after decreasing the prescribed voltage detection value to be less than or equal to the power save voltage level when the power saving mode is set.” In addition, the “control circuit recovers the prescribed voltage detection value after recovering the supply voltage when the power saving mode is terminated.” Applicant respectfully submits that the alleged admitted prior art in view of Saitou fails to disclose, teach or suggest these limitations.

Specifically, the cited combination does not disclose teach or suggest “decreasing the prescribed voltage detection value” when power saving mode is set. The cited combination only discloses or suggest lowering power output voltage levels. The “detected voltage” in Saitou is not the same as the claimed “prescribed voltage detection value.” The voltage reference used by Saitou to “detect” the power output voltage levels is not altered. Changing the prescribed voltage detection value is a key feature of the claimed invention that allows the invention to overcome several known problems associated with prior art power supply systems. Since this feature is not found in the cited combination, the cited combination is different than the claimed invention and fails to disclose at least this feature of the claim 1 control circuit.

Moreover, since the cited combination fails to disclose, teach or suggest “decreasing the prescribed voltage detection value,” the combination also fails to disclose, teach or suggest a “control circuit [that] recovers the prescribed voltage detection value after recovering the supply voltage when the power saving mode is terminated.” This is one more reason why claim 1 is allowable over the cited combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and claim 1 allowed.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ohmae, U.S. Patent no. 5,237,698, in view of Saitou. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 recites the steps of “providing a reset signal for resetting the CPU when an output voltage from a power supply is less than or equal to a prescribed operable level; setting a power saving mode; decreasing the prescribed operable level before decreasing the output voltage down to a power saving level; resetting the power saving mode; and recovering the prescribed operable level after recovering the output

voltage.” Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Ohmae and Saitou fails to disclose, teach or suggest these limitations.

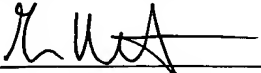
As set forth above, Saitou fails to disclose, teach or suggest “decreasing the prescribed operable level before decreasing the output voltage down to a power saving level” and “recovering the prescribed operable level after recovering the output voltage.” Ohmae, which has been cited as teaching other elements of claim 4, also fails to disclose, teach or suggest these limitations. Accordingly, claim 4 is allowable over the cited combination for at least the reasons set forth above and on its own merits. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and claim 4 allowed.

The Office Action indicates that claim 3 is allowable if the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 were overcome and claim 3 is drafted as an independent claim including the limitations of its base claims. Claim 3 depends from claim 2, which depends from claim 1. Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In addition, Applicant believes that claim 1 is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: April 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371

Gianni Minutoli

Registration No.: 41,198

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicant